

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for providing a hot key corresponding to a particular function in a computer system, the computer system having a graphical user interface (GUI) and including a pointing device enabling a user to select items displayed in the GUI, the particular function provided for a context of an application program, [a] the user providing input within the context, the method comprising the steps of:

integrating a hot key configuring function into the GUI such that a user can access the hot key configuring function from within the context and without leaving the context, wherein the context includes a displayed item displayed in the GUI corresponding to the particular function, and wherein the particular function is performed when the displayed item is selected by the pointing device; and

mapping the hot key to the particular function and storing the mapping, the mapping and storing performed without the user leaving the context and in response to the user utilizing the hot key configuring function in the context, wherein the mapping allows causes the particular function to be accessed by the computer system when the mapped hot key is selected, and wherein the mapping includes:

receiving an indication of the particular function to which the hot key is to be mapped, the indication provided by the user moving the pointing device over the displayed item to indicate the particular function corresponding to the displayed item for mapping, wherein the displayed

item is selectable by the pointing device to perform the function and is indicatable by the pointing device to indicate the function for mapping; and

receiving a key combination as the hot key in response to the user selecting the key combination using a hardware input device.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
accounting for ambiguities between the hot key and a pre-existing hot key.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~wherein the context includes a plurality of items in the GUI, one of the plurality of items corresponding to the particular function~~, wherein the ~~computer system~~ pointing device includes a mouse, and wherein hot key configuring function integrating step further includes the steps of:

determining the plurality of items selectable in the context; and

providing a mechanism that maps at least one of the plurality of items to the hot key from the context without the user leaving the context.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the hot key configuring function integrating step further includes the step of:

providing a mechanism that accounts for ambiguities between the hot key and a pre-existing hot key.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (currently amended) The method of claim [5] 1 wherein the key combination includes a plurality of keys.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled).

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~computer system further includes a pointing device, wherein the context includes a displayed feature corresponding to the particular function and wherein the mapping step further includes the steps of: receiving an indication of the particular function to which the hot key is to be mapped when moving the pointing device over the displayed item to indicate the particular function includes the user hovers hovering~~ the pointing device over the displayed ~~feature item~~ for a predetermined amount of time; and
~~receiving a selection of a key combination as the hot key.~~

11. (Cancelled).

12. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing program instructions for providing a hot key corresponding to a particular function in a computer system, the computer system having a graphical user interface (GUI) and including a pointing device enabling a user to select items displayed in the GUI, the particular function provided for a

context of an application program, [a] the user providing input within the context, the program instructions for:

integrating a hot key configuring function into the GUI such that a user can access the hot key configuring function from within the context and without leaving the context, wherein the context includes a displayed item displayed in the GUI corresponding to the particular function, and wherein the particular function is performed when the displayed item is selected by the pointing device; and

mapping the hot key to the particular function and storing the mapping, the mapping and storing performed without the user leaving the context and in response to the user utilizing the hot key configuring function in the context, wherein the mapping allows causes the particular function to be accessed by the computer system when the mapped hot key is selected, and wherein the mapping includes:

receiving an indication of the particular function to which the hot key is to be mapped, the indication provided by the user moving the pointing device over the displayed item to indicate the particular function corresponding to the displayed item for mapping, wherein the displayed item is selectable by the pointing device to perform the function and is indicatable by the pointing device to indicate the function for mapping; and

receiving a key combination as the hot key in response to the user selecting the key combination using a hardware input device.

13. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein the program further includes instructions for:

accounting for ambiguities between the hot key and a pre-existing hot key.

14. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 12 ~~wherein the context includes a plurality of items in the GUI, one of the plurality of items corresponding to the particular function,~~ wherein the computer system pointing device includes a mouse, and wherein hot key configuring function integrating instructions further includes instructions for:

determining the plurality of items selectable in the context; and

providing a mechanism that maps at least one of the plurality of items to the hot key from the context without the user leaving the context.

15. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 14 wherein the hot key configuring function integrating instructions further includes instructions for:

providing a mechanism that accounts for ambiguities between the hot key and a pre-existing hot key.

16. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein the mapping instructions further includes instructions for:

receiving a key combination selected by the user as the hot key, the key combination including a plurality of keys.

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Cancelled).

21. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein the computer system further includes a pointing device, wherein the context includes a displayed feature corresponding to the particular function and wherein the mapping instructions further includes instructions for:

~~receiving an indication of the particular function to which the hot key is to be mapped~~
~~when moving the pointing device over the displayed item to indicate the particular function~~
~~includes the user hovers hovering the pointing device over the displayed feature item for at least~~
~~a predetermined amount of time; and~~

~~receiving a selection of a key combination as the hot key.~~

22. (Cancelled).

23. (currently amended) A computer system comprising:

a hardware mechanism that provides an application, the application providing a context and having a particular function available therein, the particular function provided for a context of an application program, a user providing input within the context;

a graphical user interface (GUI); and

a pointing device enabling a user to select items displayed in the GUI, wherein the context includes a displayed item displayed in the GUI corresponding to the particular function, and wherein the particular function is performed when the displayed item is selected by the pointing device; and

a hot key configuring function integrated into the GUI such that a user can access the hot

key configuring function from within the context and without leaving the context, the integrated hot key configuring function utilized by the user to designate a mapping of the hot key to the particular function and store the mapping without the user leaving the context, wherein the mapping ~~allows~~ causes the particular function to be accessed by the computer system when the mapped hot key is selected, and wherein the mapping is created by receiving an indication of the particular function to which the hot key is to be mapped and receiving a key combination as the hot key in response to the user selecting the key combination using a hardware input device, the indication provided by the user moving the pointing device over the displayed item to indicate the particular function corresponding to the displayed item for mapping, wherein the displayed item is selectable by the pointing device to perform the function and is indicatable by the pointing device to indicate the function for mapping.

24. (previously presented) The computer system of claim 23 wherein the integrated hot key configuring function further accounts for ambiguities between the hot key and a pre-existing hot key.

25. (currently amended) The computer system of claim 23 wherein the ~~context includes a plurality of items in the GUI, one of the plurality of items corresponding to the particular function, wherein the computer system~~ pointing device includes a mouse, and wherein the hot key configuring function further determines the plurality of items selectable in the context and provides a mechanism that maps at least one of the plurality of buttons to the hot key from the context.

26. (previously presented) The computer system of claim 25 wherein the hot key configuring function further includes a mechanism that accounts for ambiguities between the hot key and a pre-existing hot key.

27. (currently amended) The computer system of claim 23 wherein ~~the hot key~~ configuring function further receiving a key combination selected by the user as the hot key, the key combination including a plurality of keys.

28. (Cancelled).

29. (Cancelled).

30. (Cancelled).

31. (Cancelled).

32. (currently amended) The computer system of claim 26 wherein ~~the computer system~~ further includes a pointing device, wherein the context includes a displayed feature corresponding to the particular function and wherein the hot key configuring function receives an indication of the particular function to which the hot key is to be mapped when moving the pointing device over the displayed item to indicate the particular function includes the user ~~hovers~~ hovering the pointing device over the displayed feature item for at least a predetermined amount of time, and receives a selection of a key combination as the hot key.

33. (Cancelled).

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein mapping the hot key to the particular function without the user leaving the context includes mapping the hot key to the particular function without the user providing input to a menu separate from the context.

35. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein mapping the hot key to the particular function without the user leaving the context includes receiving a ~~selection~~ the indication of the particular function made by the user without the user providing input to a menu separate from the context.

36. (currently amended) The method of claim [7] 1 wherein the indicating of the ~~item displayed in the context~~ particular function includes the user hovering a pointing device over a portion of the corresponding item in the GUI for a predetermined amount of time.

37. (currently amended) The method of claim [7] 1 wherein the item is a text-based item including text, and wherein the ~~indicating~~ indication of the ~~item~~ particular function includes selecting text of the corresponding item.

38. (previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 12 wherein mapping the hot key to the particular function without the user leaving the context includes mapping the hot key to the particular function without the user providing input to a menu separate from the context.

39. (currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 12 wherein

mapping the hot key to the particular function without the user leaving the context includes receiving ~~a selection~~ the indication of the particular function made by the user without the user providing input to a menu separate from the context.

40. (currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim [17] 12 wherein the ~~indicating~~ indication of the ~~item displayed in the context~~ particular function includes the user hovering a pointing device over a portion of the corresponding item in the GUI for a predetermined amount of time.

41. (currently amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim [17] 12 wherein the item is a text-based item including text, and wherein the ~~indicating~~ indication of the ~~item~~ particular function includes selecting text of the corresponding item.

42. (previously presented) The computer system of claim 23 wherein the mapping of the hot key to the particular function without the user leaving the context includes a mapping of the hot key to the particular function without the user providing input to a menu separate from the context.

43. (currently amended) The computer system of claim 23 wherein the ~~designation of the mapping includes the hot key configuring function receiving a selection~~ indication of the particular function is made by the user without the user providing input to a menu separate from the context.

44. (currently amended) The computer system of claim [29] 23 wherein the indication of the ~~item displayed in the context~~ particular function includes the user hovering a pointing device over a portion of the corresponding item in the GUI for a predetermined amount of time.

45. (currently amended) The computer system of claim [29] 23 wherein the item is a text-based item including text, and wherein the indicating of the ~~item~~ particular function includes selecting text of the corresponding item.

46. (new) The method of claim 37 wherein the indicating of the particular function includes clicking on a portion of the text of the corresponding item and wherein the portion of the text is assigned as a portion of the hot key.

47. (new) The computer-readable medium of claim 41 wherein the indicating of the particular function includes clicking on a portion of the text of the corresponding item and wherein the portion of the text is assigned as a portion of the hot key.

48. (new) The computer system of claim 45 wherein the indicating of the particular function includes clicking on a portion of the text of the corresponding item and wherein the portion of the text is assigned as a portion of the hot key.

49. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein the context is a particular context, and wherein the application program has a plurality of different contexts which can each independently receive user input.